

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/807,256

Examiner

Kianni C. Kaveh

Applicant(s)

TSUYAMA, ISAO

Art Unit

2883

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/25/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 22-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

**KAVEH KIANNI
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Applicant's canceling of claims 6-21 in the amendment/response submitted is acknowledged.

Reason for Allowance

Claims 1-5 and 22-24 are allowed for the following reasons:

The instant application is deemed to be directed to a nonobvious improvement over the invention patented in Pat. No. Maxham (US 6411407).

Claim 1 is allowed because the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious an optical reception section configured to receive a light inputted thereto and having a wavelength different from that of the transmitted light from said optical transmission section, to thereby regenerate said light inputted thereto as a data signal to be outputted from a data output port in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base claim. Claims 2-4 are allowed by virtue of dependency.

Claim 22 is allowed because the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious said second optical component includes a plurality of demultiplexing side ports respectively corresponding to optical signals of a plurality of wavelengths contained in the transmitted light output from said optical transmission section, and a plurality of demultiplexing side ports respectively corresponding to optical signals of a plurality of wavelengths contained in the light output from the third port of said first optical component in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base claim.

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Claim 23 is allowed because the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious said first optical component, said second optical component, and said third optical component each has a plurality of demultiplexing side ports respectively corresponding to wavelengths of a plurality of optical signals contained in said transmitted light, a plurality of demultiplexing side ports respectively corresponding to wavelengths of a plurality of optical signals contained in said received light, and one multiplexing side port in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base claim.

Claim 24 is allowed because the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious the plurality of optical apparatuses respectively correspond to said plurality of optical input-output ports, and the first ports of the first optical components of said plurality of optical apparatuses are connected with corresponding optical input-output ports, and a switch circuit capable of arbitrarily switching connections between transmission data input ports of the optical transmission sections and receiving data output ports of the optical reception sections of said plurality of optical apparatuses in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

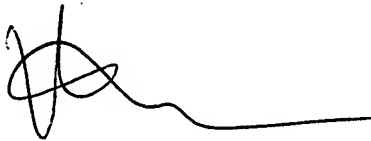
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kianni C. Kaveh whose telephone number is 571-272-2417. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-19:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on 571-272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

K. Cyrus Kianni
Primary Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2883

December 31, 2006



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